IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An anode material for lithium ion secondary battery comprising a coated graphite powder, which is a graphite powder in which interior portions of fine pores are coated with a carbonized material of thermoplastic resin, wherein the coated graphite powder satisfies the following five characteristics (1) through (5):

(1) a mesopore volume defined by IUPAC is 0.01 cc/g or less as calculated with the BJH method as viewed from desorption isotherm;

(2) an average particle size as measured by a laser-scattering- particle-size-distribution measuring device ranges from 10 μm to 50 μm, and a ratio of standard deviation to the average particle size, σ/D, is 0.02 or less;

(3) a peak strength ratio R of 1,360 cm^{-1} to 1,580 cm^{-1} is 0.4 or less as determined by a Raman spectrum analysis with a wavelength of 532 nm, where $R = I_{1360}/I_{1580}$;

(4) a rate of oxidation loss when oxidized in atmospheres of 400°C and an air mass flow of 3 L/min. for one hour is 2 wt% or more; and

(5) a specific surface area is in the range of 1.6 m^2/g to 3.1 m^2/g as calculated based on BET with nitrogen as the absorptive.

Claims 2–4 (Canceled):

Claim 5 (Original): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein the coated graphite powder has an H/C value of 0.01 or less as determined by an elemental analysis.

Claims 6–7 (Canceled):

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein the graphite powder has an average interlayer spacing d_{002} of not more than 0.3380 nm and L(112) of not less than 5 nm as determined by the Gakushin-method for X-ray diffraction of carbon employing an X-ray diffraction device.

Claim 9 (Original): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein an accumulative pore volume of the coated graphite powder increases 5% or more, as compared with an accumulative pore volume of the graphite powder having a pore size of 0.012 μm to 40 μm as measured by a mercury porosimeter method.

Claim 10 (Original): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein the mesopore volume of the coated graphite powder is 60% or less of the mesopore volume of the graphite powder.

Claim 11 (Original): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein the coated graphite powder is coated with carbonized material of thermoplastic resin of a carbonization yield of not more than 20 wt% in a proportion of not more than 10 parts by weight the carbonized material per 100 parts by weight graphite powder.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of (1) polyvinyl chloride, (2) polyvinyl alcohol and (3) polyvinyl pyrrolidone, or (4) mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) An anode material for lithium ion secondary battery comprising a mixture of two different coated graphite powders <u>different in average particle size from each other</u>, which are each graphite powders in which interior portions of fine pores are coated with a carbonized material of thermoplastic resin, wherein the mixture of coated graphite powders satisfies the following two characteristics (1) and (2):

(1) a mesopore volume defined by IUPAC is 0.01 cc/g or less as calculated with the BJH method as viewed from desorption isotherm; and

(2) an average particle size as measured by a laser-scattering-particle-size-distribution measuring device ranging from 10 to 50 μm, and a ratio of standard deviation to the average particle size, σ/D, of 0.02 or less.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 13, wherein the mixture of coated graphite powders consists of 50–90 wt% of a graphite powder having an average particle size, prior to coating with a thermoplastic resin, ranging from ~~15–25~~ <u>18–25</u> μm and 50–10 wt% of a graphite powder having an average particle size, prior to coating with a thermoplastic resin, ranging from ~~8–15~~ <u>10–13</u> μm.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein the mixture of coated graphite powders has an H/C value of 0.01 or less as determined by an elemental analysis.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein the graphite powders have an average interlayer spacing d_{002} of not more than 0.3380 nm and L(112) of not less than 5 nm as determined by the Gakushin-method for X-ray diffraction of carbon employing an X-ray diffraction device.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein an accumulative pore volume of the mixture of coated graphite powders increases 5% or more, as compared with an accumulative pore volume of the mixture of graphite powders having a pore size of 0.012 μm to 40 μm as measured by a mercury porosimeter method.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein the mesopore volume of the mixture of coated graphite powders is 60% or less of the mesopore volume of the mixture of graphite powders.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein the mixture of coated graphite powders is coated with carbonized material of thermoplastic resin of a carbonization yield of not more than 20 wt% in a proportion of not more than 10 parts by weight the carbonized material per 100 parts by weight graphite powder.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The anode material for lithium ion secondary battery according to Claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of (1) polyvinyl chloride, (2) polyvinyl alcohol and (3) polyvinyl pyrrolidone, or (4) mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The anode material according to claim 1, made by a process comprising:

i) dry-blending a first graphite powder with a first resin powder to form a mixture;

ii) baking said mixture in the presence of nitrogen or argon gas to obtain a baked graphite powder; and

iii) sifting said baked graphite powder to form the coated graphite powder.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A process for the making anode material according to claim 1, comprising:

i) dry-blending a first graphite powder with a first resin powder to form a mixture; and

ii) baking said mixture in the presence of nitrogen or argon gas to obtain a baked graphite powder.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 22, further comprising:

iii) sifting said baked graphite powder to obtain coated graphite powder.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 22, wherein said baking occurs at a temperature ranging from 700 to 1,100.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A process for the making anode material according to claim 13, comprising:

i) dry-blending a first and second graphite powder with a first resin powder to form a mixture; and

ii) baking said mixture in the presence of nitrogen or argon gas to obtain a first and second baked graphite powder.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 25, further comprising:

iii) sifting said first and second baked graphite powder to obtain a mixture of two different coated graphite powders.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 25, wherein said baking occurs at a temperature ranging from 700 to 1,100.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The anode material according to claim 13, made by a process comprising:

i) dry-blending a first and second graphite powder with a first resin powder to form a mixture;

ii) baking said mixture in the presence of nitrogen or argon gas to obtain a first and second baked graphite powder; and

iii) sifting said first and second baked graphite powder to obtain a mixture of two different coated graphite powders.

Claim 29 (New): The anode according to claim 1, exhibiting an irreversible capacity of from 28.2 to 43.6 mAh/g.

Claim 30 (New): The anode according to claim 13, exhibiting an irreversible capacity of from 28.2 to 43.6 mAh/g.

Claim 31 (New): The anode according to claim 1, exhibiting an initial efficiency of from 90.4 to 93.4%.

Claim 32 (New): The anode according to claim 13, exhibiting an initial efficiency of from 90.4 to 93.4%.